

**REMARKS**

- 5 Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's comments, which have greatly assisted Applicant in responding.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103(a)**

- 10 Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-18, and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chisholm (hereinafter "Chisholm"), U.S. Pat. No. 5,400,248, in view of Marsh *et al.* (hereinafter "Marsh"), U.S. Pat. No. 4,210,962. Applicant respectfully submits that Chisholm and Marsh, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach, suggest, or render obvious the present invention as claimed.

- 15 Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 recite, *inter alia*, providing a rule engine, which evaluates business objects with no prior association and uses business rules to evaluate a relationship between the business objects, each business object being a voter that provides votes that are evaluated by the business rules, wherein a sequence of voters and  
20 an order of the votes determine values in a solution set.

- The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the features of Marsh within the system of Chisholm in order to arrive at the present invention as claimed. Applicant respectfully  
25 disagrees for the following reasons.

- Looking at the cited references, Chisholm discloses a voting system that allows voters to express and cast votes that are conditional on the votes of others of a voting group. Chisholm fails to teach or suggest providing a rule engine, which evaluates business  
30 objects with no prior association and uses business rules to evaluate a relationship between the business objects, each business object being a voter that provides votes that are evaluated by the business rules, wherein a sequence of voters and an order of the votes determine values in a solution set, as claimed in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15.

- 35 Marsh does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Chisholm. Marsh discloses a parallel/pipeline processor designed to rapidly solve optimization problems with dynamic

programming. Marsh fails to teach or suggest providing a rule engine, which evaluates business objects with no prior association and uses business rules to evaluate a relationship between the business objects, each business object being a voter that provides votes that are evaluated by the business rules, wherein a sequence of voters and an order of the votes determine values in a solution set, as claimed in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15.

Further more, Chisholm fails to teach or suggest a combination with Marsh and Marsh fails to teach or suggest a combination with Chisholm. Chisholm discloses a voting system for casting and tabulating votes and displaying the results, while Marsh is concerned with processors having parallel pipeline architecture. It would be impermissible hindsight based on Applicant's own disclosure to incorporate the teachings of Marsh into Chisholm. Moreover, such a combination would still fail to teach or suggest providing a rule engine, which evaluates business objects with no prior association and uses business rules to evaluate a relationship between the business objects, each business object being a voter that provides votes that are evaluated by the business rules, wherein a sequence of voters and an order of the votes determine values in a solution set, as claimed in independent Claims 1, 8, and 15.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 8, and 15, are patentable and are not obvious over Chisholm in view of Marsh, taken alone or in combination. Thus, Claims 1, 8, and 15 are deemed in allowable condition. Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13-14, 16-18, 20-21 dependent directly or indirectly from Claims 1, 8, and 15, respectively, are also patentable and are not obvious over Chisholm in view of Marsh, taken alone or in combination, at least for the same reasons as stated above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allowance of the Claims.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, Applicant considers the present invention to be distinguished from the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections raised in the above referenced Office Action, such that a Notice of Allowance is forwarded to Applicant, and the present application is therefore allowed to issue as a United States Patent.

Respectfully Submitted,



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